

**RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
HEMSWORTH.**



**Annual Report**

OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
FOR THE  
**Year ended December 31st, 1918.**

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# Hemsworth Rural District Council.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1918.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My Report on the health of the district for 1918 is later than usual in being presented to you, but it has been almost impossible to find sufficient time, owing to pressure of work, to get it completed before, and in consequence it has been necessary to abbreviate the Report, comment only being made on the most important matters. With only one Sanitary Inspector available, the work has been carried out under great difficulties, and much has had to be left undone. Considerable time and attention has, however, been given to meat inspection and food supplies, and infant welfare work, and as much as possible done to abate various nuisances and insanitary conditions as they have arisen. The seven tables at the end of the Report, as given last year, have been again compiled, and Table C, giving full particulars of the sanitary work of the district, has been completed and sent to the County Medical Officer of Health.

**Population and Birth Rate.**—The total population of the District, as estimated by the Local Government Board, is 47,049. On this the Birth Rate for the District is calculated, and works out at 28.4. This is seriously below former years but compares favourably with the rate for England and Wales, which is 17.7. There were 1,335 births within the District, and of these 65 were illegitimate.

**Deaths.**—The total Deaths numbered 847. After allowing for transferable deaths, the nett total is 882. Calculating on the Local Government Board's estimate of the civil population only, which is 41,992, the Death Rate for 1918 works out at 21.0, which is regrettably high as compared with the average (for the past ten years) 14.1. For England and Wales the Death Rate is 17.6. The large increase, as will be seen later in the Report, is accounted for by the epidemics of Influenza, Measles, and Whooping Cough, and the prevalence throughout the year of Pneumonia in various forms. The chief causes of death were as follows:—



INFLUENZA AND ITS COMPLICATIONS (chiefly Pneumonia), which caused no less than 211 deaths, principally between the ages of 25 and 45.

PNEUMONIA, 93 deaths, which is double that of last year (49).

BRONCHITIS, 71 deaths, of which 22 were under one year.

MEASLES, 60 deaths. There were 1,130 cases of this disease notified during the year; 15 of the deaths occurred under one year, and 38 amongst children between one and five years.

CONGENITAL DEBILITY & PREMATURE BIRTH, 63 deaths.

WHOOPIING COUGH, 31 deaths, of which 14 were under one year of age.

DIARRHŒA & ENTERITIS caused 21 deaths, 20 of which were under one year. This is very satisfactorily low as compared with 1917 (50 deaths), 1916 (60 deaths), 1915 (76 deaths), 1914 (77 deaths).

PHTHISIS, 46 deaths.

**Infantile Mortality.**—The Infantile Mortality Rate this year is 123, as compared with 99 last year, which is most disappointing after all the hard work that has been done throughout the District to improve the health of the babies. The increase is almost entirely accounted for by the three serious epidemics of Influenza, Measles and Whooping Cough, which at present are practically unavoidable. The Influenza epidemic only caused five actual deaths of infants, but it no doubt seriously affected the health of the mothers, and consequently that of the infants.

The total number of deaths under one year was 165, and the chief causes of death were:—

CONGENITAL DEBILITY & PREMATURE BIRTH, 61 deaths.

formerly I have pointed out, these diseases cause a large proportion of the deaths of infants, and are most difficult to prevent, Venereal Disease being accountable for a great portion of them.

ZYMOTIC DIARRHŒA & ENTERITIS, 20 deaths. This shows a satisfactory decrease, and may be attributable to the excellent work of the Clinics and Health Visitors.

PNEUMONIA, 15 deaths.

BRONCHITIS, 22 deaths.

MEASLES, 15 deaths. Last year there were no deaths from this cause.

WHOOPING COUGH, 14 deaths. Last year there were only two deaths from this disease.

INFLUENZA, 5 deaths.

**Zymotic Diseases.**—The Zymotic Death Rate for the year was 2.8, which is above the average. The year has been remarkable for the number of epidemics and prevalence of infectious diseases. At the commencement of the year, in January and February, Whooping Cough was very prevalent in South Elmsall and South Kirkby. In the early spring a severe epidemic of Measles started and affected most of the District for six months before it abated. In July, Influenza became epidemic and affected the whole district, but subsided in September, after causing a number of deaths. At the end of October the disease again appeared in a much severer form, and quickly became epidemic throughout the district, causing many deaths, chiefly from Pneumonia. In addition to these diseases there were 77 cases of Scarlet Fever, of which only one case was fatal; and 64 of Diphtheria, from which there were six deaths. Unfortunately, the condition of the district, owing to the scarcity of houses, overcrowding, and difficulty of obtaining nurses and medical help, was most unfavourable for combatting these epidemics, and consequently they very rapidly spread, with many fatal results, particularly amongst the children, who form such a large proportion of the population.

**Influenza.**—Throughout the district there were 211 deaths, primarily attributable to this disease. It appeared particularly fatal, chiefly from Pneumonia, amongst young people between the ages of 15 and 45 years. The more severe epidemic started in the middle of October, and was at its height in November, and gradually subsided at Christmas. In the first three weeks there were 80 deaths, and alarm soon spread amongst the people. It became increasingly difficult for those stricken with the disease to get any help at all, or even sufficient nourishment. It was impossible to get any extra nurses, and the only help available was that of the Health Visitors and some of the midwives. The disease was spread chiefly by direct contact, and affected in its most fatal form those of the houses which were overcrowded, dirty, and badly ventilated. Every available means were taken to check the disease by the issuing of pamphlets, the closing of schools and clinics, and opening up a block at the Isolation Hospital for those cases that could not obtain any help at home.



**Measles.**—This disease first appeared in epidemic form at Great Houghton in March, and gradually spread practically throughout the district, affecting one township after another, and did not finally subside till August. Many of the cases were of a very severe type, and there were altogether 60 deaths. A total of 1,130 notifications of primary cases were received. The deaths amongst infants under one year were 15, and amongst children between 2 and 5 years of age there were 21 deaths.

The epidemic was particularly severe in Grimethorpe, and was aggravated by the scarcity of milk until measures of relief were opportunely taken by the Food Control Committee. Nearly all the schools in the district had to be closed for varying periods, and children of school age prohibited from visiting the Picture Houses.

**Whooping Cough.**—Whooping Cough was very prevalent most of the year, becoming epidemic at South Elmsall and South Kirkby, and necessitating school closure. The disease was of a very severe type, and was responsible for 31 deaths, chiefly from Broncho Pneumonia; it affected the infantile population to a large degree and caused the deaths of 14 infants.

**Zymotic Enteritis.**—It is satisfactory to be able to report a considerable decrease in the deaths from this disease, which is one over which it is possible to exercise a great deal of control through the help of the Health Visitors and Infant Welfare Clinics. There were only 21 deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis this year, as compared with 50 last year, and 76 in 1916.

**Scarlet Fever.**—This disease was much less prevalent during the year, the total number of cases notified being 77, as compared with 193 last year. The majority of the cases occurred in Hemsworth, namely, 53; but they did not appear in epidemic form. All the cases were isolated at the hospital, and only one proved fatal.

**Diphtheria.**—There were no epidemics of this disease. The number of cases notified was 65, but many were of a severe type, and six proved fatal. The great importance of getting the Antitoxin injected at the earliest possible moment does not seem to be fully realised, but it is the only safeguard we have against these fatal results.

**Enteric Fever.**—There were 8 cases of this disease notified, one of which was an imported case. All were admitted

to the hospital with the exception of one. Two of the cases proved fatal.

**Phthisis.**—There were 108 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified, and 40 of other organs of the body. This appears satisfactory compared to former years, but I am inclined to think that a good many cases have not been notified owing to pressure of work on medical men and congestion at the Tuberculosis Dispensaries. Great difficulty has been experienced in combatting this disease owing to the scarcity of houses, the high cost of food, and lack of accommodation at the Sanatoriums. The valuable work of the Tuberculosis Dispensaries has also been hampered by the shortage of doctors, and has had to be considerably curtailed.

From experience of the results of tracing and examining contacts and other members of phthisical families, it is evident that it is of the greatest importance, if any real progress is to be made against this disease, advanced cases must be isolated and further infection prevented as much as possible. Sanatoriums serve their purpose, and are most necessary for the treatment and education of the early cases, but they leave the problem of the advanced cases untouched, and do not reach one of the chief sources of the disease.

The deaths from Phthisis numbered 46, the majority—namely, 17—occurring between the ages of 25 and 45, which are the years in which the disease is most liable to appear.

**Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium.**—The accommodation at the Hospital has been severely taxed during the year, 224 cases of all kinds having been admitted. In addition to the usual infectious diseases, 33 cases of Influenza were admitted, many of them suffering from Pneumonia, eight of which proved fatal. The Phthisis block has been fully utilised, 40 cases, chiefly of boys under 16 years of age, being admitted, and they have derived great benefit from the treatment. A few cases of advanced Phthisis have also been admitted, and there have been two deaths. The average stay in hospital has been about 13 weeks.

The twelve beds at the Brierley Gap Sanatorium have been fully occupied, the patients being girls under 16 years of age. Many of the cases have done remarkably well; all of them have been early cases, and the average stay 13 weeks. The results of the treatment may be roughly described as follows:—



	Patients
In Sanatorium on Jan. 1st, 1918 .....	10
Admitted during the year .....	44
Discharged: Disease entirely arrested .....	26
Much improved .....	10
Well, with no physical signs .....	8
No improvement .....	3

#### **NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.**

There were 1,335 Births during the year, the majority of which were attended by the midwives of the district. It is satisfactory to be able to report that there was only one case of Puerperal Fever and two of Ophthalmic Neonatorium. The midwifery service of the district has considerably improved and the shortage of midwives overcome. A younger and more up-to-date class of women are gradually taking up the work, which will still more be encouraged in the future by a scheme recently commenced by the County Council Authorities, of subsidising the work of properly trained nurses and guaranteeing them a living under certain conditions. This is most important in relation to Infant Welfare Work, so much depending on the proper and skilful care of mothers and infants during childbirth and afterwards.

All births notified have been visited by the Health Visitors and the necessary instructions as to the care and feeding of the babies given, special attention being given to the premature and delicate ones.

#### **INFANT WELFARE.**

Considerable progress has been made during the year in connection with Infant Welfare work, and in spite of the unfortunate increase of the Infantile Mortality, which, as I have already remarked, is due to the epidemics of Measles, Whooping Cough and Influenza experienced during the year, there is a marked improvement in the care and feeding of infants. When conditions become more settled and normal, I feel sure we shall obtain much more satisfactory results from the various measures taken throughout the district for the care of the infants and children.

The Clinics have been increased to seven, and continue to do good work, especially at South Elmsall, which is the most successful, as will be seen from the details given below. It has been very hard work organising new Clinics, owing to the difficulty of obtaining doctors for them, and at South Kirkby it has been impossible to obtain one, and the Clinic has had to be carried on by the Health Visitors only.



During the year a fourth Health Visitor was appointed and the districts re-arranged, adding considerably to the efficiency of the work; but at the same time I find that the Clinics and the work connected with them takes up a great deal of the time of the Health Visitors, and there is a danger of the visiting at the mothers' homes suffering in consequence. The latter is the most important, as it is only by visiting that a certain class of ignorant or careless mothers can be reached, as they, as a rule, will not trouble to bring their infants to the Clinic.

The following are a few details of the work of the various Clinics :—

**South Elmsall Clinic.**—Thirty-nine Clinics have been held, and there are 403 babies on the roll. The attendance of mothers totalled 1,299 and babies 1,527. The majority of the babies are breast fed, and the remainder taking cow's milk, none having patent foods. There is a successful " Thrift " Clinic of 47 mothers.

**Ackworth Clinic.**—Fifty meetings have been held. The attendance of mothers totalled 624, babies 284, children 538, expectant mothers 13. The average attendance at each meeting was 29, and at the Doctor's Clinic 39. Various health talks to the mothers have been given, and also six cooking demonstrations. A very successful Clothing Club was carried on in connection with the Clinic.

**Hemsworth Clinic.**—This Clinic is held fortnightly, and 22 meetings have been held. The total attendance of mothers was 598, and that of babies and children 531; 26 expectant mothers also attended. The average attendance of mothers was 27 and of babies 20.5. A successful Clothing Club was carried on in connection with the Clinic.

**Ryhill Clinic.**—This Clinic was only started in May, but has made satisfactory progress. It is held fortnightly. The mothers have made 216 attendances and the infants and children 236.

**South Kirkby Clinic.**—This Clinic was started in June by Miss Boothroyd, no doctor being available. It has been very successful, the average attendance of mothers being 23, and that of children and infants 24.

**Fitzwilliam Clinic.**—This Clinic was started in August, and is making good progress, the average attendance of mothers being 17.5 and that of children and infants 14.

The work of the Clinics has been greatly helped by the Voluntary Committees. Without the help of the ladies on these Committees it would be impossible to carry them on.

They have been indefatigable in helping with the weighing and keeping of records, providing teas, and organising various social attractions for the mothers.

In addition to the Clinic work, the Health Visitors have paid 9,060 visits to the homes of parents. They have also paid a number of visits to expectant mothers, patients suffering from Tuberculosis, and to delicate and debilitated children and illegitimate infants.

**Housing.**—I regret that, owing to the war, it has not been possible to make much progress with the large amount of work that requires to be done in connection with the housing conditions of the district. The scarcity of houses is a serious menace to the health of the district, and it is imperative that the various schemes for building new houses should be commenced with as little delay as possible. At the same time, the dilapidated and insanitary condition of many of the present houses needs immediate attention, and the owners compelled to carry out the necessary repairs. Now that labour and materials are gradually becoming more available, there should be less delay in getting the work carried out after notices have been served.

**Conclusion.**—There are several matters of importance in the report that call for special notice, and cause one anxious thought. The first is the alarming rise in the Death Rate from an average of 14.1 to 21. This is in a great measure accounted for by the epidemic of Influenza which attacked the district in the autumn, the virulence of which was greatly aided by the overcrowded state of the houses and general conditions due to the war. The epidemics of Measles and Whooping Cough also had their effect. The rise in the Death Rate becomes more serious when taken into consideration with the second notable fact—the marked decline in the Birth Rate. There were only 1,335 births this year, as compared with 1,698 in 1914, before the war had affected the country. It behoves the Council, therefore, to give all the attention possible to the welfare of the infants and children that compose so large a proportion of the population of the district, and safeguard their health by improving the sanitary conditions and surroundings of their homes to the fullest extent possible. The first essential is to provide more houses as soon as possible, and to press on the work of repairing and improving those that exist. At the same time, very great progress cannot be expected until the present insanitary privy middens are done away with and the water carriage system adopted.

For the proper protection of infant life, an adequate and wholesome milk supply is necessary, and to ensure this the



bye-laws affecting the cowsheds, and the conditions under which the animals are kept and milked, must be enforced as far as possible without interfering with the supply.

There is need, too, for more active measures to be taken to deal with Tuberculosis in all its forms. The war has considerably interfered with this work, and there is much leeway to be made up. Great difficulty is experienced in getting early cases of Phthisis away to Sanatoriums, and often during the waiting period the cases have become too advanced to derive the proper benefit from the treatment. The consequence is they become advanced cases and a source of serious infection to others, especially members of their own household. Further legislation is required if this disease is to be diminished or stamped out. Legislation more particularly to protect the healthy members of the community by providing for (1) Compulsory isolation of advanced cases where possible (2) Segregation of certain cases in colonies and on farms; (3) Restriction of the marriage of persons suffering from Tuberculosis. It is evident that until this disease is dealt with at its source, and the supply of fresh cases cut off, we shall always have Tubercular Disease prevalent throughout the country, in spite of all that is done at the Sanatoriums and Tuberculosis Dispensaries.

It will be seen from the Sanitary Inspector's Report that a good deal of attention has been given to the meat supply of the district, and that it has been necessary to condemn a great number of tubercular carcasses. For the efficient carrying out of this work it is most necessary in the future to limit the number of slaughter-houses and have them under more direct supervision.

Finally, I must ask the indulgence of the Council for the brevity of my remarks in the Report, many matters having to be left out owing to pressure of work. I wish also to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the kind consideration the Council have always given me, and to acknowledge the help and support I have received from the Sanitary Inspectors and other officials of the Council.

I am, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. P. WILTSHIRE, M.O.H.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1918.

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Glencoe Villa, South Kirkby,

February, 1919.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council  
of Hemsworth.

Mrs. Barnsley and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my first Annual Report of the sanitary work in the district during the period from January 1st to December 31st, 1918.

For this year the Report deals with the whole of the 24 Parishes comprising the Rural District, and for this reason, owing to the large area covered, it has only been possible to deal with the most pressing matters, the ordinary routine inspection in connection with my duties being practically suspended.

### Visits and Inspections.

Infectious Disease .....	194
House to House Inspection .....	80
Work in course of re-construction .....	148
Slaughter-houses .....	125
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops .....	21
Common Lodging Houses .....	12
Tents, Vans, Sheds .....	17
For Water Samples .....	29
For Milk Samples .....	32
Complaints .....	389
Schools .....	48
Premises for Meat and Food Inspection	283
Offensive Trades .....	10
Re-visits .....	341
Miscellaneous .....	1118
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Total number of Visits .....	2847

### Clerical Work.

Complaints received .....	389
Letters received .....	459
Letters written .....	408
Preliminary Notices served .....	452



Statutory Notices served .....	32
„ „ „ Sec. 36, P.H.A.	127
„ „ „ Sec. 41, P.H.A.	17
Reports prepared .....	42
Plans of Drainage work, etc., prepared	8

### Litigation.

Cases taken before Magistrates .....	3
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All the cases were for having diseased meat deposited for purpose of preparation for sale and intended for food of man. One defendant was convicted and fined £20 and costs; one defendant was given benefit of doubt and case dismissed; one case withdrawn.

A number of prosecutions were also taken by the Executive Officer of the Food Control Committee, and I was called upon to give evidence in 12 cases. Two cases were dismissed, convictions being recorded in the remainder, five defendants being fined £20 each, one was fined £10 and costs, one fined £5 one fined £2, one fined £1, and the other to pay costs.

### Infectious Disease and Disinfection of Rooms.

Number of Rooms Disinfected .....	628
Number of Schools Disinfected .....	17
Number of Lodging Houses Disinfected	1

This work has practically all been done by Mr. Bull. It is important work, and will do much good. It was necessary to report one case for wilful exposure to the Committee, the man being brought before the Committee and cautioned.

### Meat and Food Destroyed.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
27 Carcases of Beef and Offal .....	8	8	1	19
15 Forequarters of Beef and Offal .....	1	3	3	5
9 Hindquarters of Beef and Offal .....		15	1	9
Cut portions of Beef .....		3	1	20
11 Forequarters Frozen Beef .....		14	0	14
4 Hindquarters Frozen Beef .....		5	0	10
Cut portion Frozen Beef .....		5	2	26
Offal representing Lungs, Livers, and other organs of 49 beasts .....		18	1	20
1 Carcase of Pig .....		1	0	0
7 Carcases of Mutton .....		6	2	12
Portions of Mutton .....			3	26
Hams and Bacon .....	1	1	3	25½

3 Carcases of Calves .....	1	3	0
Sausages .....			40
Condensed Milk (sold for pig food) .....			56
Corned Beef .....			2
Eggs, about 4,500 .....	2	1	16
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Total weight .....	14	9	3 20½

In addition to above seizures, at the request of the Executive Officer of Food Control Committee, 83 examinations of carcasses and other foods have been made in various part of the district, and the following were passed for food:—36 carcasses of beef, 15 carcasses of pigs, 15 of sheep, 1 calf, portions of 11 carcasses of beef, portions of 2 carcasses of mutton, 2 lots of frozen beef, 1 lot of bacon, 4 lots of cooked food, 1 lot of butter (1 lot of margarine used for confectionery).

It will be seen from the foregoing table that this branch of my work has received a great deal of attention, and required much of my time. The grading of the cattle and the grouping of slaughtering to central areas under the Food Controller's Orders has considerably facilitated this work, and the fact that compensation was made for loss of diseased animals that were graded, brought about a ready co-operation between the butchers and your officers.

One would hope that the grouping of slaughtering in suitable premises may be retained, instead of allowing so many private slaughter-houses to be again opened up in the district, many of which are inadequate and unsuitable for the purpose.

### **WATER SAMPLES.**

Twenty-nine samples of water have been taken from various Parishes. Fourteen of these proved satisfactory; 15 showed pollution in varying degrees. The sources of supply in these cases have been dealt with so as to prevent further contamination.

### **MILK SAMPLES.**

Thirty-two samples of milk have been taken during the year. Twenty-nine of these proved genuine; one was reported of very poor quality; one proved to be below the standard, and the vendor was warned by the County Authorities. The other case was found to contain 24.2 of added water. The vendor in this case was prosecuted (on Jan. 11th, 1919) and fined £10, the magistrates deciding that it was a very bad case of adulteration.



**DRAINS TESTED, &c.**

Number of Drains Tested .....	50
Drains Overhauled and Re-laid .....	18

**DISINFECTANTS.**

Number of Applications received .....	456
Number of Applications granted .....	402

**NUISANCES RECORDED.**

Defective	W.C. Pans and Traps .....	8
„	Drains .....	71
„	W.C. Cisterns .....	11
„	Gullies .....	21
„	Sinks and Waste Pipes .....	118
„	Roofs .....	113
„	Floors .....	62
„	Staircases and Stairs .....	9
„	Down Spouts & Eaves Troughing .....	178
„	Windows .....	133
„	Yard Pavings .....	104
„	Urinals .....	2
„	Ceilings .....	21
„	Doors .....	10
„	Manholes .....	11
„	Pumps .....	1
„	Vent Shafts .....	16
„	Walls .....	27
Offensive	Cesspools .....	10
„	Ditches .....	5
„	Filter Beds .....	2
„	Accumulations .....	44
„	Animals .....	6
„	Fowl Runs .....	16
„	Chimneys .....	3
„	Privies and Middens .....	152
	Insufficient Privies and Middens .....	224
	Insufficient Light and Ventilation .....	19
	No Paved Area .....	4
	Insufficient Water Supply .....	51
	Dangerous Wells .....	3
	Polluted Wells .....	1
	Dirty Rooms .....	56
	Dirty Slaughter-houses .....	4
	Dirty Trade Premises .....	3
	Verminous Rooms, etc. ....	20

Damp Walls .....	160
Broken Fire Grates .....	37
Broken Coppers .....	29
Plaster off Walls .....	50
Water in Cellars .....	6
Damp Cellars .....	28
Ashpits, no doors .....	37
Choked Drains .....	108
No Proper Food Store .....	42
Want of Manure Pit .....	2
,, Sanitary Bin .....	17
,, Drains .....	13
Houses Flooded with Sewage .....	6
Dilapidated Cow Sheds .....	2
Cow Sheds want Limewashing .....	2
Unsuitable Milk Store .....	2
Stagnant Pools .....	7
Overcrowded Houses .....	8
Overcrowded Van .....	1
Dangerous Street Channelling .....	1
Miscellaneous .....	84
	<hr/>
	2180

### PREMISES WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

**Common Lodging Houses.** — There are two registered houses in the district, both of which are situated in Hemsworth, and which provided for all the accommodation required. The Model Lodging House requires some alteration regarding the married quarters; the cubicles provided for sleeping accommodation are totally unsuitable. At the other house, byelaws will require to be enforced for the proper separation of the sexes, etc., and the sanitary accommodation requires thoroughly renovating.

**Tents, Vans and Sheds.**—There are no bye-laws in force in the district for promoting cleanliness and the habitable condition of vans, etc., used for human habitation. The Council have arranged for bye-laws to be prepared. One case of overcrowding was found in a van that was stationed in Hemsworth. Notice was served on the occupier, who at once removed out of the district.

**Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.** — Eight applications have been received during the year for registration as cow-keepers and milk purveyors. Five of these were granted, two



were refused owing to unsuitable premises, and one the condition of the premises were such that the Medical Officer of Health could not recommend the registration. The applicant stated that he would get better premises, and he was allowed to keep on his business until new premises were ready early in the new year, when fresh application could be made.

New legislation is expected to come into force during the coming year, which will greatly affect the milk trade, but which it is anticipated will ensure a clean and pure supply of milk.

**Offensive Trades.**—Two applications have been received during the year to establish offensive trades within the Council area. Both were refused. Two premises in which offensive trade is carried on are being dealt with so as to prevent nuisances arising.

### SCAVENCING.

The scavenging in the three largest Parishes, viz., Hemsworth, South Elmsall and South Kirkby, is now undertaken by the Parish Councils, and this must eventually lead to improvements in the work. This has already been shown in the South Elmsall Parish. In the early part of the year the work was very badly neglected, and complaints were received almost daily, whereas since the Council commenced the work in August in three of the districts complaints have almost ceased. Fur-horses are to be purchased, when the Council will then take over the whole of the work in their Parish. At South Kirkby the work has been carried out satisfactorily, very few complaints having been received.

One difficulty met with in these two Parishes during the year has been the question of rations for the horses, but with a bit of trouble this has been got over, and it is not likely to be felt much longer. At Hemsworth there have been many complaints of the work being neglected, which have been somewhat justified. The principal reason of this, I believe, has been the difficulty with the men. The men have not turned up to their work with any regularity, and the shortage of labour has prevented their being replaced. This, it is hoped, will now adjust itself, and the work proceed with more satisfaction.

In eight of the other Parishes the work is done by contract, and while in some of these there have been serious complaints of the work being neglected, it has been carried out as well as possible under the circumstances. The shortage of labour and the difficulty in getting any assistance with the work have prevented us from dealing with the work as speedily as

we should have liked to do. These matters will now no doubt adjust themselves. Every contractor and each of the foremen in charge of the depot have now been supplied with suitable registers for keeping records of their work, and we shall now have useful data to work upon.

### HOUSING.

Number of Dwelling-houses inspected under the Act of 1909 .....	62
Number of Dwelling-houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	3
Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to making Closing Orders .....	3
Number of Closing Orders made .....	3
Number of Demolition Orders made .....	1

Three notices were served under Section 15 of the Act, two of which were complied with, and one the owner declared his intention to close the house. Closing order was therefore declared operative. With regard to 49 houses, these were dealt with by notices under the Public Health Act, 1875.

In addition to these, the Council found that five wooden huts in South Hiendley Parish were unfit for human habitation, and decided they should be demolished.

In several of the larger Parishes the scarcity of houses is very acute, and is considerably hindering the progress in sanitary improvement that is necessary in a large number of houses. Only eight cases of overcrowding are recorded, but these represent the worst cases found, and in which, owing to the conditions existing, it has been necessary to deal with, but there are many other cases that have not been dealt with owing to the fact of there being no houses for the people to get into, so that notices to abate the overcrowding could not have been enforced. It is imperative that the Council should proceed with their housing schemes as rapidly as possible.

Another matter in connection with the housing question that is a serious nuisance to the health of the people is the large number of privy middens that exist in the district.

In the twelve Parishes for which we have got the census figures there appears to be 8,100 houses, 5,956 of which have privies and middens, 1,740 which have water-closets, and 404 have joint use of the privy accommodation.

A large number of these privy middens are a nuisance in every sense of the word. They pollute the soil and the atmos-



phere; they saturate the walls and foundations of the buildings, nursing and conserving infection, and consequently lowering the vitality of the people, and rendering them susceptible to the whole range of pestilential influences. It cannot be wondered at that people condemned to live under such conditions decline to open their windows for ventilation, for to do so would let in a swarm of flies fresh from wallowing in filth to crawl into their milk and other food.

The total abolition of these privies and middens is an absolute necessity, for it is impossible to rear a healthy population under such conditions.

### GENERAL REMARKS.

The drainage system in some of the low-lying districts does not appear to be all that should be desired, and calls for some immediate steps being taken to remedy the nuisance that is caused. This has been particularly felt in the lower part of South Kirkby, where the sewer, owing to the sinkings caused by the working of the mines, has been found to have a big fall in the wrong direction. This is causing a nuisance at all times, but during heavy rains, when the sewer is charged beyond its capacity, the conditions are such that they should not be tolerated, and the nuisance is one that should receive the immediate attention of the Council.

I would also like to draw the attention of the Council to the filthy condition of some of the private roads in the district. Some are veritable quagmires and disease-breeding grounds. Those that are not made up should be done at once, and those that are made up should be better scavenged. This could best be done by the Council taking over the whole of the streets in their district.

It is impossible to include in a Report of this kind all the details of the work carried out during the year. The figures and particulars are simply intended to convey to the Council the main work executed, and other important matters worthy of their attention.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council for the kind consideration shown me in the execution of my duties, and also I wish to express my thanks to Mr. W. O. Bull for the valuable assistance he has so willingly rendered me during the year.

I am, Mrs. Barnsley and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM P. McALLISTER, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Inspector of Nuisances.

**TABLE I.**  
**Vital Statistics for 1918 and previous years.**

Year.	Total Births.		Net Deaths.		Infant Mortality Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate.
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate		
1908	1180	34.1	493	14.3	152	2.1
1909	1300	35.6	518	14.2	124	1.7
1910	1409	38.9	593	15.4	143	2.0
1911	1510	37.1	671	16.4	171	4.5
1912	1642	38.3	536	12.5	111	1.7
1913	1669	36.8	680	15.0	137	2.6
1914	1698	35.5	786	16.4	152	3.1
1915	1668	34.9	704	15.6	145	3.7
1916	1464	32.5	583	12.8	116	2.0
1917	1332	29.6	533	11.8	99	1.8
Average for 10 years, }	1487	35.3	609	14.4	135	2.5
<b>1918</b>	<b>1335</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>2.8</b>



TABLE II. Births and Deaths in different Parishes, 1918.

TOWNSHIPS.	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.			Illegitimate Births			Illegitimate Births in Workhouse			
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
<b>Western Registration Sub-District:</b>													
Brierley (including Grimethorpe)	...	74	57	131	75	60	135	2	6	8	—	—	—
Great Houghton	...	39	39	78	23	23	46	3	—	3	1	1	—
Havercroft-with-Cold Hiendley	...	11	5	16	9	6	15	1	1	2	—	—	—
Hemsworth	...	164	171	335	75	66	141	10	8	18	—	—	—
Hemsworth Workhouse	...	1	2	3	26	9	35	—	—	—	—	—	—
Huntwick, Nostell and Foulby	...	2	3	5	2	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Little Houghton	...	4	6	10	4	4	8	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ryhill	...	47	32	79	14	16	30	2	—	2	—	—	—
Shafton	...	15	16	31	12	5	17	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Hiendley	...	23	19	42	11	8	19	—	1	1	—	—	—
Winterset	...	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Eastern Registration Sub-District:</b>													
Ackworth	...	58	47	105	47	25	72	5	2	7	—	—	—
Badsworth	...	3	—	3	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hamphall Stubbs	...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hessle and Hill Top	...	—	1	1	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kirk Smeaton	...	2	2	4	—	4	4	—	1	1	—	—	—
Little Smeaton	...	3	1	4	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Elmsall	...	4	3	7	5	4	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Ellmsall	...	95	81	176	53	60	113	4	2	6	—	—	—
South Kirkby	...	156	137	293	98	82	180	8	8	16	1	1	1
Skelbrook	...	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorpe Audlin	...	3	—	3	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Upton	...	2	1	3	3	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Walden Stubbs	...	1	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Hardwick	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals for whole District	...	708	627	1335	465	382	847	35	30	65	1	2	3

TABLE III.

Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital during 1918.

TOWNSHIPS.	Influenza.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Phthisis.	Puerperal Fever.	Mixed Infectious.	Totals.
Ackworth	...	7	6	1	1	...	...	15
Badsworth	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	5
Brierley and Grimethorpe	...	...	2	1	6	...	...	9
Great Houghton	...	6	...	...	2	...	...	8
Hamphall Stubbs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Havercroft	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hemsworth, Kinsley, and Fitzwilliam	17	32	52	3	11	...	1	116
Hessle and Hill Top	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Huntwick, Foulby and Nostell	...	5	1	...	...	...	...	6
Kirk Smeaton	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2
Little Houghton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Little Smeaton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
North Elmsall	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ryhill	2	3	...	...	6	...	...	11
Shafton	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	3
South Elmsall	3	3	1	1	4	...	...	12
South Hiendley	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	3
South Kirkby and Moorthorpe	5	4	7	2	9	...	...	27
Skelbrook	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Thorpe Audlin	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Upton	1	1	4	...	...	...	...	6
Walden Stubbs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
West Hardwick	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Winterset	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Cases Isolated	33	65	77	8	39	1	1	224

Deaths in Hospital :—Scarlet Fever 1, Diphtheria 4,  
Phthisis 2, Enteric Fever 1, Influenza 8.



TABLE IV.

## Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified in 1918.

	Notified at different ages.								Sub-Districts.		Removed to Hospital.		
	All ages.	Under 1 year	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 & upwards	Western	Eastern	Western	Eastern	Totals
Small Pox	-												
Cholera	-												
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup)	64		15	40	4	5			45	19	49	16	65
Erysipelas	26			2		7	14	3	8	18			
Scarlet Fever	77	2	20	51	3	1			58	19	57	20	77
Typhus Fever	-												
Enteric Fever	8			1	3	2	2		3	5	4	4	8
Relapsing Fever	-												
Continued Fever	-												
Puerperal Fever	1					1			1				1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2							1	1			
Poliomyelitis	1	1								1			1
Tuberculosis—	-												
Pulmonary	108		1	22	14	56	13	2	63	45	25	14	39
Other Forms	40	1	12	19	2	5		1	19	21			
Measles	1086	57	521	498	6	4			556	530			
German Measles	44	4	16	24					27	17			
Totals	1457	67	585	657	32	81	29	6	781	676	135	54	191

TABLE V. Causes of Death, 1918.

CAUSE.	Deaths at all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	Totals.	
										Eastern	Western
Enteric Fever ...	2			1		1				1	1
Small Pox ...											
Measles ...	60	15	17	21	7					44	16
Scarlet Fever ...	1			1						1	
Whooping Cough ...	31	14	5	10	1	1				12	19
Diphtheria and Croup ...	6			5	1					6	
Influenza ...	211	5	15	34	47	22	56	24	8	99	112
Erysipelas ...	1								1	1	
Phthisis(Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	46		1		8	7	17	12	1	29	17
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	9		4	4	1					3	6
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	9		1	2	1	1	4			3	6
Rheumatic Fever ...	1							1		1	
Cancer, Malignant Diseases ...	26						1	15	10	14	12
Meningitis ...	5	1	3		1					1	4
Bronchitis ..	71	22	7	18				8	16	45	26
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	93	15	16	20	11	4	6	18	3	44	49
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ..	3							2	1	2	1
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ...	21	20	1							10	11
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	2				1		1			2	
Alcoholism ...											
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	3				1		1		1	3	
Nephritis and Bright's Disease...	14			1	3		5	3	2	5	9
Puerperal Fever ...	1					1					1
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	5						5			2	3
Congenital Debility & Malforma- tion, including Premature Birth	63	61	2							41	22
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	23			5	3	7	4	4		12	11
Suicides ...	5						3	2		4	1
Organic Heart Disease ...	37	2	4			1	3	15	12	21	16
Other Defined Diseases ...	133	10	1	6	6	3	16	32	59	73	60
Diseases ill-defined or unknown											
Totals ...	882	165	77	128	92	48	122	136	114	479	403



TABLE VI.

**Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified in each Township  
during 1918.**

Township.	Poliomyelitis	Small Pox	Cholera	Diphtheria and Membr. Group	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Typhus Fever	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Tuberculosis.		Measles.		Totals.
											Pulmonary	Other Forms	Measles	German Measles	
Ackworth	1			9	4	6		1			10	15	140		186
Badsworth				1											1
Brierley						2		1		1	13	3	175		195
Great Houghton				5	2						4	4	80		95
Hampthall Stubbs													1		1
Havercroft											1		2		3
Hemsworth				32	2	53		1	1		27	3	234	27	379
Hessle and Hill Top				2	1										3
Huntwick, Foulby & Nostell				2	1	2		1			2	1	17		26
Kirk Smeaton				1									1		2
Little Houghton				1							2		15		18
Little Smeaton													1		1
North Elmsall											1		16		17
Ryhill				3	1						11	6			21
Shafton				2	2						2	1	3		10
South Elmsall				2	7	2		2			21	2	191	4	231
South Hiendley				1		1					1	1	14		18
South Kirkby				3	6	6		2		1	13	4	193	12	240
Skelbrook															
Thorpe Audlin						1									1
Upton				1		4							3	1	9
Walden Stubbs															
West Hardwick															
Winterset															
Totals	1			65	26	77		8	1	2	108	40	1086	44	1457

TABLE VII.

## 1918. Infantile Deaths in each Township.

Townships.	Estimated Population	FROM			Totals	Infantile Mortality Rate.
		Diarrhoea & Enteritis	Congenital Debility Malformation, &c.	Other Causes		
<b>Western Registration Sub-District:</b>						
Brierley (including Grimethorpe)	4750	4	6	13	23	175
Great Houghton	2250		6	10	16	205
Havercroft	850	1	1	1	3	187
Hemsworth (including Workhouse)	10500	5	13	13	31	91
Huntwick, Nostell and Foulby	530					
Little Houghton	500					
Ryhill	2500	2	4	3	9	113
Shafton	1150	1	1	1	3	96
South Hiendley	1150			2	2	47
Wintersett	60					
<b>Eastern Registration Sub-District :</b>						
Ackworth	4500		7	5	12	114
Badsworth	250					
Hamphall Stubbs	30					
Hessle and Hill Top	220					
Kirk Smeaton	330					
Little Smeaton	175					
North Elmsall	425			2	2	285
South Elmsall	6000	2	13	14	29	164
South Kirkby	8000	6	11	18	35	119
Skelbrook	120					
Thorpe Audlin	320					
Upton	240					
Walden Stubbs	160					
West Hardwick	30					
Totals for whole District	45040	21	62	82	165	